

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a needle crystal comprising a C₆₀ platinum derivative and C₆₀ fullerene molecules that is single crystalline and having a hollow structural portion by a liquid-liquid interfacial precipitation method, which comprises (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C₆₀ platinum derivative and the C₆₀ fullerene molecules therein, wherein the amount of the C₆₀ platinum derivative to be added is in the range of 1-10 mass % for the C₆₀ fullerene molecules, is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent; (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; and (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface.

19. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the C₆₀ platinum derivative is (η^2 -C_{60)Pt(PPh₃)₂.}

20. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

21. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.

22. (Previously presented) A C₆₀ fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon.

23. (Previously presented) The C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having a hollow structural portion.

24. (Previously presented) The C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having an end that is closed or open.

25. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon, ~~which comprises said method consisting of the following steps:~~

- (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C₆₀ platinum derivative therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent;
- (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; ~~and~~
- (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface; and
- (4) a step in which either a vacuum thermal treatment at 600°C or higher or an irradiation of an electron beam with high energy of 100 keV or higher ~~at room temperature~~ is carried out ~~for~~ on the carbon fine wire.

26. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the C₆₀ platinum derivative is (η^2 -C₆₀)Pt(PPh₃)₂.

27. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

28. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.